

# ***Division of Behavioral Health Services***

## ***Division of Compliance***

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**TO:** RBHA and TRBHA CEOs and Medical Directors

**FROM:** Laura Nelson, M.D.  
ADHS/DBHS Medical Director

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**SUBJECT: Policy Clarification: ADHS/DBHS Medication Formulary, Psychotropic Medications**

**DATE:** June 14, 2006

This memorandum is intended to clarify the responsibilities of the Tribal and Regional Behavioral Health Authorities (T/RBHAs) in meeting the Arizona Department of Health Services/Division of Behavioral Health Services (ADHS/DBHS) requirements regarding ADHS/DBHS Medication Formulary, Psychotropic Medications.

### **Current language in the DBHS Formulary:**

"Alternative formulations of medications that are already on the DBHS formulary are considered to also be on the formulary."

### **New language for the DBHS Formulary:**

"Effective May 15, 2006, new, alternative, FDA-approved formulations of medications that are already on the DBHS formulary must be specifically approved by the DBHS Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee prior to inclusion on this formulary."

Consumers currently being prescribed alternative formulations are excluded from this change. These consumers should not be changed from their medication if they are benefiting from its use. This change only affects any new formulations that are FDA approved after May 15, 2006.